backlog of SCs/STs in Dr. R. P. Centre in particular and, AIIMS in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No regular appointments to the post of Sr. Resident Doctors are being made in the Institute from July/September, 1994 onwards due to stay orders of the High Court of Delhi on reservation issue. In R.P. Centre of AIIMS, 26 Sr. Resident Doctors have been appointed on *ad-hoc* basis from July, 1994 till date, out of which 7 candidate belong to reserved categories. At present, *ad-hoc* appointments are being made with 22.5 per cent reservation for SC/ST candidates.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details regarding backlog of SCs/STs have been called for from the Institute.

Mantra therapy for treatment of incurable diseases

2520. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Mantra Therapy being practised by Tapaswi Janak Sahi in New Delhi, for Members of Parliament, for curing incurable diseases;

(b) if so, what is the number of MPs who have got the treatment and with what results;

(c) whether Government have recognised this ancient heritage; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any research has been conducted in this therapy; if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken/propose to take any steps to preserve and propagate this ancient and valuable therapy in the world; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There have been news items on Mantra Therapy. According to which Members of Parliament have been treated with this thedapy. However, the Government have no data about the number of Members of Parliament benefitted by the Ministry.

(c) to (e) Even though mantra therapy finds a mention in our authoritative classical texts, there are no scientific reports/clinical trails on the basis of which its therapeutic efficacy can be substantiated. The work of conducting research vests in the central council for research in Ayurveda and Siddha & Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy. These councils initiate research projects on the recommendations of their respective scientific advisory committees. Research on the subject could not be taken up primary because it did not figure in the priority laid down by the councils at present.

गांवों और शहरी गंदी बस्तियों में मुफ्त चिकित्सा सुविधाएं

5521. श्री इकबाल सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के गांवों तथा घनी आबादी वाली शहरी गंदी बस्तियों की जनता के लिए मुफ्त चिकित्सा सुविधाएं देने तथा उनका विस्तार करने के संबंध में सरकार की नीति क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय चिकित्सालयों द्वारा विभिन्न बीमारियों से पीड़ित गरीब व्यक्तियों के इलाज हेतु उनसे कुछ शुल्क लिया जाता है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार क्या आवश्यक कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी) : (क) सरकारी नीति के अनुसार देश के गांवों और शहरी स्लम बस्तियों में निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधाएं उप केन्द्रों, प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों, ग्रामीण परिवार कल्याण केन्द्रों, शहरी परिवार कल्याण केन्द्रों, प्रसवोत्तर केन्द्रों और शहरी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों के तंत्र के जरिए प्रदान की जाती है। इन केन्द्रों की स्थापना की जाती है और अनुमोदित मानदंडों के आधार पर उनका विस्तार किया जाता है।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार के अस्पतालों में परीक्षण जल्द कराने के लिए ओकिल्पूर्ण शुल्क लेना बंद कर दिया है। गरीब और निर्धन मरीजों के मामले में झुकाव न लेने हेतु उपयुक्त प्रावधान किए गए हैं। गरीब मरीज मुफ्त इलाज कराने के लिए हाल ही में गठित राष्ट्रीय बीमारी सहायता निधि से भी सहायता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

Super-speciality AIDS Hospital

2522 SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to start super-speciality AIDS hospitals in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) whether any place has been identified for the said purpose in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) All HIV infected patients AIDS cases are being treated in general hospitals all over the country like other patients without any discrimination and by adopting universal bio-safety precautions.

Death of tribal children in Melghat forest region

2523. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM.
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that special attention is required to be given to Melghat forest region of Amravati district of Maharashtra, where more than 4500 tribal children have died due to malnutrition and disease;

(b) if so, what is the detailed plan of Government to prevent the space of deaths which is still continuing;

(c) what is the mechanism to monitor this; and

(d) what is the provision of money for this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government is aware of the problem of death of tribal children in Melghat forest region of Dharni and Chikaldhara tehsil of Amravati District. According to the State Government of Maharashtra 1289 children below the age of 6 years died during the last three years. Premature birth associated with various grade of malnutrition affects the immune system and such children are predisposed to contract infectious diseases resulting in high mortality.

(b) The State Government has reported that specific measures have been taken in Melghat region which include establishment of office of Additional